

Minutes of the School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Milton High Library  
Date: July 16, 2014

**Committee Present:** Leroy Walker, Chair, Michael Zullas, Vice Chair, Mary Kelly, Lynda-Lee Sheridan, (arrived late) Kristan Bagley-Jones (arrived late) Becky Padera.

**Staff Present:** Mary Gormley, Superintendent; Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business.

**Call to Order:** The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Approval of Agenda:** Mr. Walker moved Item 4e under the Superintendent's Report to executive session, as it is a discussion of a proposed salary for the Assistant Superintendent. Also, because Dr. Spaulding is in attendance, Mr. Walker moved Item 7b up earlier in the presentation. Ms. Kelly asked whether Item 8a is a first or second reading of the policy. Mr. Zullas said he proposes it to be a second reading and a first reading together and Ms. Kelly asked to amend the wording of the agenda to reflect that. The agenda was approved with those edits.

**Citizen's Speak:** none

### **Superintendent's Report:**

Topic One: Ms. Gormley invited Pierce Principal Dr. Karen Spaulding and Pierce Middle School Student Eliza O'Donnell to appear before the committee. Ms. O'Donnell recently won a national photography contest and was commended by the school committee.

Topic Two: Internal Assessment Data Presentation. Dr. Karen Spaulding, along with Tucker Principal Elaine McNeil-Girmai, Milton High School Principal James Jette and Milton High School Science Department Head Amy Tom came before the School Committee to give this presentation. For the elementary schools, the presentation gave an overview of early literacy end-of-year data - by program (French Immersion and English) as well as Math year-end assessment benchmarks. For the Pierce Middle School, the SRI and Fountas & Pinelle reading data for all students receiving targeted reading support, as well as Math and Science data. At Milton High School, the overview focused on science and math data by course, and English data by grade level.

Next steps were reviewed by each grade level. For elementary, this includes developing growth bands for Grades 1 and 2, and Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) for grades 3-5; correlating SRI with final PARCC data; implementing Mathematics Performance Tasks to collect growth data; correlating Math Performance Tasks with final PARCC data; implementing teaching strategies GOLD in all K classrooms; utilizing technology to streamline assessment and analysis practices; and piloting new assessments in grades 3-5 Science. For middle school, this includes: comparing targeting reading support students F&P data with spring ELA results; expanding SRI to

grade 8; implementing Mathematics Assessment Resource (MARS) performance tasks to collect growth data for 2014-15; correlating MARS performance tasks with final PARCC data; completing development of science common assessments; designing a rubric to evaluate scientific explanations, focusing on claims and evidence, to measure growth and identify anchor papers. At Milton High School, the next steps include piloting Math Performance Tasks in the core math courses to collect growth data for 2014-14; reviewing and revising the format of midyear and final exams in the math integrated courses to mirror that of the PARCC assessment; implementing common unit assessments in all core science classes; reviewing and revising the format of midyear and final exams in the core science classes to align with revised Pre-AP/AP Standards; and implementing a common rubric for the persuasive essay in order to collect growth data for 2014-15.

School Committee members asked questions about the presentation. Ms. Padera expressed concerns about comparative data, and said the presentation would be more valuable to share with the teachers, and then discussed after getting input from teachers. Ms. Kelly said the data is valuable, but would like to move away from the Pass/Fail categories. She appreciates the English and French data has been broken out for two grades, but would like to see it done for all grades. Ms. Gormley said that this data equips the teachers with more data, which is helpful. Mr. Zullas asked what happens if the data (MCAS, internal, PARCC) is not correlative, which do we focus on? Dr. McNeil-Girmai said there are ways to tweak the data to make assessments.

Note: Ms. Bagley Jones and Ms. Sheridan arrived at 8:10pm.

Mr. Walker asked if there are enough opportunities for staff to discuss the data and make assessments? Should we have more? Mr. Jette's answer was that we have opportunities, but perhaps not enough. This year will provide more opportunities and this will "turn around" the data even faster. Dr. Spaulding and Dr. McNeil-Girmai both agreed with Mr. Jette's opinion. Ms. Gormley noted that PD opportunities help and there was good attendance at PD session the week after school ended.

Topic Three: Handbooks. Ms. Gormley thanked all those for working on the student handbooks. They have been vetted by Paige Tobin. Ms. Sheridan commended them for getting these done at the end of the year instead of just before the start of the year. Ms. Kelly said the Policy Subcommittee will be working on the Student Discipline Policy. Chair entertained a motion to approve the student to approve the handbook.

**Move:** Ms. Sheridan

**Second:** Ms. Bagley Jones

Discussion: Ms. Sheridan clarified the motion to approve the handbooks.

**Vote:** 6-0-0

Topic Four: School Year 2013-14 Discipline Data (Attachment) Ms. Gormley explained that the principals and their administrative assistants compiled the data. The last three years are being complied as well. What would be the financial impact on the district for meeting the new discipline requirements? Ms. Gormley read the suspension/expulsion

data for each school. She will report at the next meeting what the plan is to meet the new requirements, as well as the financial impact. Ms. Bagley Jones asked if any patterns have been detected in the discipline data. Mr. Jette said the high school numbers are higher as far as discipline data because the school day extends beyond 3pm, with sports and other after-school activities. Ms. Kelly asked, if a home tutor was needed, would we need to create special classrooms for behavioral issues? Must also make sure that all work is on-line whenever possible. Ms. Gormley noted that the expansion of Edline is underway.

Topic Five: Middle School Health Position: (Attachment) (Vote) Dr. Karen Spaulding asked to add an expanded health position to the Pierce Middle School. This would require shifting from a two-day schedule to a four-day schedule to ensure that all 7 and 8th graders get 45 days of PE & Health; and that 6th graders get 22 days of each. Mr. Zullas said they are working on the net financial impact of this change. Ms. Gormley noted that Ms. Kelly asked whether other electives would decrease, and Dr. Spaulding replied that it doesn't result in a reduction of staff elsewhere. There was discussion about how this might affect student schedules. Ms. Kelly also suggested that this might require a new policy. Dr. Pavlicek noted what the state requirements are for health and for PE and what the financial impact may be and estimated it may be \$50 to \$60,000. Ms. Kelly said she will be voting against this. Ms. Padera moved to vote approval of the Middle School Health Position and appropriate the money.

**Move:** Ms. Padera

**Second:** Ms. Sheridan

Discussion: Ms. Kelly noted that this could be a more flexible position for PE/Health, so there might not be an issue on how this position is applied in the schedule. Ms. Padera said her preference would be to find someone dually certified. Although she agreed this is ideal, the friendly amendment from Ms. Kelly was accepted.

**Vote:** 5-0-1

Topic Six: EOY Report. (Attachment) Ms. Gormley said this is an excellent source for the School District to have all this info in one place. Needs finance info, needs discipline data. MCAS, SAT and AP data will be available in August. Also, regarding the FI/English data, Dr. O'Dwyer said this year's data could be analyzed by one of her graduate students. Ms. Kelly asked where the previous data is kept. Online? Ms. Kelly would like to see French and English broken out because it's such a driver of our system. Not sure we need an elaborate analysis. We should have this every year. Ms. Gormley said when we hire the data specialist, this will be a priority.

Topic Seven: Summer Library/Pre-K Initiative. All elementary coordinators and principals met to come up with project. Two days this summer where there will be "Summertime Reads" at both Cunningham Hall and Tucker Elementary School. Librarian from Milton Public Library will read stories to preschool children. Donated books will be distributed.

Happenings: Ms. Gormley noted that the buildings are cleaned, but at the high school, they are working around 900 children. Great combination of academics and enrichment. Tucker Scholars program is here, Japan Camp, Art Camp, Bridge Program, etc.

## **Chairmans' Report**

Topic One: Follow Up: Mr. Walker asked for a bus fee analysis within the next few weeks. He has scheduled a discussion of long-range financial planning at finance subcommittee meeting. Ms. Gormley noted that the info on closing the achievement gap for children with special needs will be at next meeting.

Topic Two: Superintendent's Evaluation Schedule: Mr. Walker reviewed the data schedule. He noted that the 9/17 meeting has a discussion and vote on 10/1, but the data will not be in by then. He proposed moving Student Achievement data presentation to 10/1, and evaluation discussion to 10/15 meeting and vote to the 11/5 meeting. Will send out revised schedule. He handed out the source document that will be used.

## **Finance Subcommittee**

Topic One: Approval of Vendor Warrants. Mr. Pavlicek noted that he has the first warrant for FY 2015 and last two for FY2014 as follows:

#53 from 6/27 in the amount of \$341,813.30

#54 from 7/10 in the amount of \$105,503.37

#3 (third week of year) for FY15 7/17 in the amount of \$42,776.81

Ms. Kelly asked to split this motion in two votes. First vote for 53 and 54, the second vote for #3. She then moved to approve #53 and #54.

**Move:** Kelly

**Second:** Mr. Zullas

**Vote:** 5-0-1 (Ms. Kelly voted no)

Ms. Kelly asked to approve the first warrant for FY15, #3

**Move:** Ms. Kelly

**Second:** Mr. Zullas

**Vote:** 6-0-0

## **Policy Subcommittee**

Topic One: Student Discipline Policy (Attachment) (Vote) Because of a time emergency, Mr. Zullas made a motion to consider the updated student discipline policies (JK and JKF) to consider outside the normal sequence of first and second reading and vote on adoption tonight.

**Move:** Mr. Zullas

**Second:** Ms. Sheridan

Discussion: Ms. Sheridan noted on the second page, the IEP now stands for Individual Education Program, not plan. Asked to make a correction. Ms. Bagley Jones was confused about the edits. Mr. Zullas asked to first vote on the motion on the table.

**Vote:** 6-0-0

Mr. Zullas reviewed two policies. First, JK, Student Discipline. The revisions in blue are from counsel Paige Tobin. He then reviewed the rest of the revisions in yellow are from the Policy Subcommittee. He moved for approval of Policy JK as revised.

**Move:** Mr. Zullas

**Second:** Ms. Kelly

**Vote:** 6-0-0

Mr. Zullas then reviewed the edits for Policy JKF, including deletions. He then moved to approve the policy as edited.

**Move:** Mr. Zullas

**Second:** Ms. Kelly

**Vote:** 6-0-0

Mr. Zullas also noted there are additional policies to review, including Physical Education policy.

**Old Business:** none

**Next Meeting Agenda Items:** None. Next meeting is August 20th (retreat) and the next regular meeting is on September 3rd.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Negotiation Strategy with Non-Union Personnel and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

**Move:** Ms. Bagley Jones

**Second:** Mr. Zullas

**Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous.